

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

If I am unable to make copies on a personal video recorder (such as Tivo) I will not be able to watch several programs I currently follow due to scheduling conflicts. This is a major inconvenience for me and for anyone who enjoys the convenience of watching television content the way they want to.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

If content is not able to be moved between multiple devices I would not be able to record information on one device and view it on another. This is analogous to recording to a VCR tape and not being able to play it on *any* other VCR. So I couldn't tape a program, then take it on vacation with me in the car. This is an unnecessary restriction of the rights of the viewer.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

If the viewing equipment I currently own cannot display broadcast content it would force me to upgrade my hardware with no personal benefit. My equipment works fine now. An "upgrade" would either prevent me from viewing content entirely, force me to purchase entirely new equipment or force me to buy "adapter" equipment which would inevitably be created to remove a broadcast flag requirement so it could be viewed on current viewing equipment.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

A broadcast flag requirement would have prevented the creation of Personal Video Recorders. This nascent industry has the growth potential to become as large as VCRs. 10 years ago this product wasn't thought of. If broadcast flags preventing digital propagation of content were in place, this product would not have been created and viewer choice would have continued to be limited.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Any restrictions on consumer electronics equipment will inevitably increase the cost of that equipment. When this increase in cost is at the expense of consumer freedom and ease of use then consumers are being forced to pay for their own servitude to corporate interests.